

Commonwealth of Virginia Council on Technology Services

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COTS Dispatch **The Newsletter of the Council on Technology**

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This update finds me nearly consumed with legislative matters, and I know this is the case for many of you as well. Working with the General Assembly affords us with an opportunity to enlist support for and advance many of our most pressing IT legislative and budgetary initiatives. In particular, I want to bring two technology measures, which were introduced at Governor Gilmore's request, to your attention. HB 829/SB 444 provide for teleworking tax credits, and HB 859/SB 574 create tax credits for the Virginia Technology Internship Program (VTIP). These two proposals were an outgrowth of work done by the Governor's Commission on Information Technology.

The Council held an Enterprise Architecture (EA) Workshop (details below) in lieu of a January meeting. Our most recent meeting was on Feb. 17, and was conducted via videoconference with one site in Richmond and additional sites around the Commonwealth (please see the COTS calendar, <http://www.cots.state.va.us/calendar.htm>, for 2000 Council meeting dates).

A couple of exciting events took place in February. First, the Commonwealth, through the Department of Information Technology's Acquisition Services Division (ASD), has issued a statewide RFP for Seat Management services (see ASD's website at <http://pcd2.state.va.us/> for more information). Federal Sources, Inc. sponsored a breakfast presentation on seat management Feb. 22 to draw together a larger group of potential bidders for the contract. We're hopeful that this landmark procurement effort will benefit from the increased vendor interest. Secondly, we followed up on Executive Order 51, which I announced in the last issue, with a very well-received workshop. For more information, see the EO51 section of the COTS website at <http://www.cots.state.va.us/eo51.htm>.

In closing, I want to thank all of you, especially Bette Dillehay and her staff at the Project Office, for all the hard work that went into ensuring a smooth Y2K rollover for the Commonwealth. Congratulations on a job well done!

Sincerely,

Don Upson
Secretary of Technology

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update The Secretary of Technology's legislative tracking site (<http://www.technology.state.va.us/legis.htm>) provides information on the four pieces of legislation mentioned above as well as a host of other bills with technology ramifications. Please use this site as a resource to stay current on technology legislation being considered by the General Assembly.

EA WORKSHOP

EA Workshop The Council held its EA Workshop Jan. 10 to begin work on a Common Requirements Vision. To this end, the principal focus of the day was discussion of enterprise-wide technology trends and business strategies. Twenty-one COTS members, or their designees, attended the workshop. For more information about the purpose of the workshop and what was discussed, please visit the EA site at <http://www.cots.state.va.us/ea>.

EO 51 WORKSHOP

EO 51 Workshop The Feb. 18 EO 51 Workshop that took place at the Department of Information Technology in Richmond enjoyed an excellent turnout. The workshop's purpose was to provide agencies and institutions with guidance on developing their plans (due to the Department of Technology Planning no later than June 1, 2000), referenced in Paragraph A of the EO, for delivering all current and expanded services through the Internet, and on putting all forms used by the public on the Internet by December 31, 2000. For information on the workshop, and to download the tools offered, visit the EO51 section of the COTS website at <http://www.cots.state.va.us/eo51.htm>.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES INITIATIVE

Digital Signatures Initiative The Digital Signatures Workgroup held its most recent meeting on Feb. 10. One of the major components of this initiative is work on a bridge certification architecture, a project being led by the University of Virginia, with the cooperation and assistance of others. The workgroup's new website will provide up-to-date information on this important phase of the project. Visit the new

website at <http://www.cots.state.va.us/dsi/> .

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